



PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

HARALD SCHROTT,
ANDREAS WAWRLA and
KLAUS ZUCHOLL

U.S. Serial No.: 10/509,880

Group Art Unit: 1797

Filed: October 4, 2004

Examiner: Terry K. Cecil

For: WATER FILTER CARTRIDGE COMPRISING AN EXCHANGEABLE TESTING
UNIT THAT CONTAINS A CONDUCTANCE SENSOR

September 22, 2009

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STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE
OF THE SEPTEMBER 16, 2009 INTERVIEW

Honorable Commissioner of
Patents and Trademarks
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

On September 16, 2009 the undersigned attorney met with Examiner Terry Cecil to discuss the pending claims in the above-identified RCE Application and the prior art. On September 15, 2009 Examiner Cecil called to advise that he located additional prior art and cited Clack U.S. Patent 5,290,442.

The Interview Summary Record accurately describes the substance of the interview except the interview was an in person interview rather than telephonic.

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On September 16, 2009 the undersigned attorney met with Examiner Cecil to discuss the pending claims of the RCE application and Clack U.S. Patent 5,259,442. The undersigned attorney pointed out that Clack '442 had pin electrodes that penetrated a manifold and did not puncture a filter. Examiner Cecil argued it would be obvious to puncture a filter in view of the puncturing a manifold.

As pointed out in the Preliminary Amendment filed concurrently herewith the Applicants do not agree. First puncturing a manifold does not present the problem of contacting the filter medium which would provide inaccurate readings due to the presence of the medium itself and/or material trapped in the filter medium. Second a manifold and the placement of a manifold in a filtration system results in different pressure than inside an initial filter due to the compressibility of gas in a manifold.

Examiner Cecil also discussed the other references uncovered, namely Ackland, et al. U.S. Patent 4,653,337 showing penetrating electrodes and Punako, et al. U.S. Patent 4,632,482 for an electrical connector with insertable and removable contacts that were sealed against moisture.

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The undersigned stated the invention was not obvious from Clack '442, Ackland, et al. '337 and Punako, et al. '482 because puncturing a filter was different from penetrating or puncturing a manifold. At that point question was raised regarding support for claim 3 as well as the sufficiency of the translation. As a result the undersigned has checked the translation and found the translation to be not precise. As a result included herewith is a certification of the proper translation, of paragraph 18 of the application as filed.

Consequently the undersigned attorney respectfully requests amendment of the specification to clarify the fact that the electrodes of the Applicant's invention in fact pierce the filter wall by making a hole that previously did not exist as opposed to penetrating the filter wall by entering a previously existing hole.

Finally the Examiner briefly discussed the amendment of claim 15 and its allowability. The additions to claim 15 to make it allowable are correctly described in the Examiner Summary Record. Indeed the Examiner Summary Record accurately and succinctly states the substance of the interview.


Consistent with the citation of new prior art and constructive comments of Examiner Cecil a Preliminary Amendment

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is filed concurrently herewith.

Respectfully submitted,

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